Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173
~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 17-28 October 2005
Executive Summary

Future Planning Calendar

(U//~~AIUO~~) 9 November 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~AIUO~~) 22 November 2005: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP): Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~AIUO~~) 13-14 December 2005: Historical Review Panel: Next semi-annual meeting.

(U//~~AIUO~~) 31 December 2006: The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

Overview of IRR Activities--Last Two Weeks

(U//~~AIUO~~) FOIA Requests

(U//~~AIUO~~) Interest in Husband of Former Prime Minister
(U//~~AIUO~~) A requester asks for information on Denis Thatcher, the husband of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The enclosed obituary notes that "he embraced his role as second fiddle with aplomb and humor. A millionaire retired oil executive, Sir Denis was routinely characterized in the British press as gin-swilling, cigarette-puffing and golf-obsessed, a portrayal he did not exactly disavow."

(b)(3)
(b)(5)

(U//~~AIUO~~) Request on Medical Intelligence Program
(U//~~AIUO~~) A frequent requester seeks information on "BLACKFLAG--a 1960s era Office of Scientific Intelligence program to 'computerize disease information to derive trends, cycles and predictions.' The requester notes that "this program is referred to in a declassified article entitled 'Intelligence Implications of Disease,' which appeared in *Studies in Intelligence.* "

(b)(3)
(b)(5)

- *The FOIA case manager accepted the request,*

(U//~~AIUO~~) CIA Declassification Center

(U//~~AIUO~~) ERWG Meets at
(U//~~AIUO~~) On 19 October, the External Referral Working Group (ERWG) met at Thirty-eight representatives from 17 federal organizations attended. C/IRRG provided ERWG members with an overview of CIA's information review and release programs, including challenges and accomplishments. A Department of State representative reported on "Project Noah," the recovery efforts following a flood in June at the Department's Records Service Center that caused major water damage to the facility, as well as thousands of historical records. To prevent mold and mildew, the documents were frozen and transported to Texas where the paper records were restored using a freeze-drying process. Microfilm and other media underwent a thorough drying and cleaning process to prevent further damage. All paper records were recovered and only a few rolls of microfilm sustained

(b)(3)
(b)(3)

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173

Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173
~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

slight permanent damage. Repairs to the Records Service Center have been completed and all material returned from Texas. A CIA contractor provided members with the status of the Document Declassification Support System (DDSS). Users from CIA, Air Force, Navy, Army, Joint Staff, and Department of State are testing the system and providing the developer with valuable feedback. To date, no significant issues have been identified. DDSS is scheduled for Full Operational Capability (FOC) in November 2005. (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) From the Archives:

(U//~~AIUO~~) Early FOIA Coordination

(U//~~AIUO~~) A January 1978 memo from the Director of the National Security Council's (NSC's) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office to his counterpart at CIA states: "Given the tremendous increase of Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, and mandatory review requests received over this past year, coupled with a corresponding increase in workload and new requirements for systematic review (i.e., moving to a 20-year review), I wonder whether it might prove useful for a small group of us to assemble from the major 'national security' agencies to discuss our mutual problems affecting the proper implementation of these requirements. Because much of the material we are reviewing is inextricably intertwined with diplomatic, military, and intelligence information, I believe that such a meeting would be useful to sort out any questions we may have governing our own agency's review of this material. Such a meeting may also shed some light on procedures we wish to develop to accommodate the new 20-year systematic review requirement." An internal memo from the NSC's Director of Freedom of Information Office the following month states: "Today I chaired a meeting of FOIA chiefs from the major security agencies (State, DoD, CIA) and representatives of the ICRC (Interagency Classification Review Committee) and the Archives to discuss mutual problems and concerns with the implementation of the FOIA, Privacy, and mandatory review requirements. This (as I was informed) was the first time ever that such a group was called together. We (NSC) were applauded for taking the initiative. We hashed out a lot of problems we all have in common and agree that we would all consult more and establish a better liaison relationship between all the agencies. Topics discussed:

- Are agencies getting appropriate resources? How are they handling increase in workload?
- Develop better liaison between agencies -- should we consult more?
- Plans to implement new 20-year systematic review requirement.
- Mandatory review and FOIA problems in general.
- Do agencies accession documents to the Archives on a regular fixed schedule?" (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) Musing or Premonition?

(U//~~AIUO~~) In notes from the DCI's 9 January 1968 morning meeting, the Chairman of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) Watch Committee, Sheldon Huntington, "drew attention to a possible flap potential in connection with the stationing along the North Korean coast of the *USS Pueblo* ." Director Helms requested that he prepare a background paper on possible problems in connection with the mission of the SIGINT ship *Pueblo* .

- *Comment: The* USS Pueblo *and its crew were seized by the North Koreans two weeks later, on 23 January 1968.* (b)(3)

(U//~~AIUO~~) Sometimes It's Not All Propaganda

(U//~~AIUO~~) The DI files provide the following excerpts from an article in the 21 April 1955 *Current Intelligence Weekly Summary* titled " Soviet Research on Earth Satellite:" "Moscow radio on 16 April announced the names of six of the members of the Permanent Interdepartmental Commission for Interplanetary Communication of the Academy of Science," which is responsible for "organizing work for the creation of an automatic laboratory of scientific research in cosmic space." The article commented that "the work was probably not advanced beyond the theoretical stages," and although placing "a small object into an orbit around the earth is considered scientifically possible. . . enlargement of such a satellite into a usable space laboratory is beyond present-day scientific knowledge."

- *Comment: A true Spacelab was in fact a long way off. However, Moscow's initial space exploration efforts surprised the world. The Russians were able to launch the first satellite, "Sputnik" (Traveling Companion), on 4 October 1957, and the first manned space mission, "Vostok" (East), on 12 April 1961.* (b)(3)

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173

Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173

This is a record.

(b)(3)

CC:

Approved for Release: 2019/03/27 C05578173